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Programme planning

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2004, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 22nd, 23rd and 33rd meetings, on 9 and 11 November and 22 December 2004. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.22, 23 and 33).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, part one (A/59/6 (Part One) and Corr.1) and part two (A/59/6 (Prog. 1-9, 10/Rev.1, 11-22, 22/Corr.1 and 23-26));

(b) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-fourth session;[1]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting (A/59/87);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/59/69);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/59/79);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16).

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(f) Letter dated 4 November 2004 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/14);

(g) Letter dated 9 November 2004 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/15);

(h) Letter dated 16 November 2004 from the Acting President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/17);

(i) Letter dated 20 December 2004 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/59/26).

4. At the 22nd meeting, on 9 November 2004, the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination introduced the report of that Committee (see A/C.5/59/SR.22).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.20

5. At its 33rd meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Programme planning" (A/C.5/59/L.20), which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) At the end of the third preambular paragraph, the words "and concerning programme 19, Human rights;" were inserted;

(b) After the third preambular paragraph, a new preambular paragraph was inserted, reading:

> "*Emphasizing* the role of the plenary and the Main Committees in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programmatic Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation",

and operative paragraph 2 was deleted;

(c) In operative paragraph 5 (formerly paragraph 6), before subparagraph (a), the word "considerations" was replaced by the word "criteria";

(d) In operative paragraph 10 (formerly paragraph 11), after the words "Trade and development", the words "those regarding programme 19, Human rights" were inserted;

(e) After operative paragraph 25 (formerly paragraph 26), the heading "Other matters" was replaced by the heading "Other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination";

(f) Before operative paragraph 28 (formerly paragraph 29), the heading "Other matters" was inserted.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.20, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

9. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002 and 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-fourth session,[1] the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007: part one: plan outline[2] and part two: biennial programme plan[3] and the reports of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003[4] and on priority-setting,[5] as well as the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives,[6]

Appreciating the letters from the President of the General Assembly transmitting the recommendations of the First Committee concerning programme 3, Disarmament,[7] the Second Committee concerning programme 10, Trade and development[8] and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) concerning programme 23, Public information,[9] and concerning programme 19, Human rights,[10]

Emphasizing the role of the plenary and the Main Committees in reviewing and taking action on the appropriate recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work, in accordance with regulation 4.10 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programmatic Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[11]

Strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, a strategic

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16).
[2] A/59/6 (Part One) and Corr.1.
[3] A/59/6 (Prog. 1-9, 10/Rev.1, 11-22, 22/Corr.1 and 23-26).
[4] A/59/69.
[5] A/59/87.
[6] See A/59/79.
[7] A/C.5/59/17.
[8] A/C.5/59/15.
[9] A/C.5/59/14.
[10] A/C.5/59/26.
[11] ST/SGB/2000/8.

framework, which would comprise in one document a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization, and a biennial programme plan, to cover two years,

1. *Notes* that the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 constitutes the first proposal presented after the approval of its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003;

2. *Also notes* that the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session recommended that the General Assembly review part one, plan outline, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007;[12]

3. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 58/269 to review, with a view to taking a final decision at its sixty-second session, the format, content and duration of the strategic framework, including the necessity of maintaining part one;

4. *Decides*, in view of the differences between Member States on the content of part one: plan outline of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007, to take no decision on part one;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare and propose a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization, and a biennial programme plan in the context of the strategic framework for the biennium 2008-2009, based, inter alia, on the following principal criteria:

(a) The longer-term objectives consistent with all the relevant legislative mandates in all areas of the activities of the United Nations;

(b) Outcomes of the intergovernmental conferences and summits;

(c) Inputs from relevant programme managers;

(d) Use of intergovernmentally agreed terms and expressions;

6. *Invites* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to consider at its forty-fifth session additional guidelines, if any, for the preparation of the plan outline;

7. *Decides* that the priorities for the period 2006-2007 will be the following:

(a) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(b) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

[12] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/59/16), para. 65.

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 based on the above priorities and the biennial programme plan as adopted in the present resolution;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to issue in one document, before the forty-fifth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, only the priorities and the biennial programme plan, as adopted in the present resolution;

10. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 contained in the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-fourth session,[1] those of the First Committee regarding programme 3, Disarmament,[7] those of the Second Committee regarding programme 10, Trade and development,[8] those regarding programme 19, Human rights[10] and those of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) regarding programme 23, Public information,[9] as reflected in the annex, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to propose a relevant indicator of achievement for programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, section A, Conference management, New York, subprogramme 4, Meetings and publishing services, in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007;

12. *Notes* that the overall system of the administration of justice in the Secretariat will be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make recommendations by the end of its fifty-ninth session on how to ensure the ongoing discharge of key functions of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat at Headquarters as defined by the Committee for Programme and Coordination;

Programme performance report

14. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003;[4]

15. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination regarding the report of the Secretary-General;

16. *Stresses* that, while future reports on programme performance will be more aligned with the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, information on the outputs shall continue to be provided in the reports;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that future programme performance reports provide more detailed information on the reasons for less-than-full implementation of programmed outputs, or the postponement and termination thereof;

Evaluation

18. *Recalls* its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which it emphasized the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system;

19. *Re-emphasizes* the importance of the contribution of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main Committees of the General Assembly, in reviewing the relevant recommendations on evaluation;

20. *Reiterates* section III of its resolution 57/282 of 20 December 2002 on evaluation;

21. *Requests* the General Committee to take fully into account the above-mentioned resolutions in the allocation of agenda items to the Main Committees;

22. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives, on in-depth evaluation of the programme on public administration finance and development, on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the in-depth evaluation of sustainable development and on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme, and on the further development of topics for a pilot thematic evaluation;

Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to schedule the organizational session of the forty-fifth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as soon as possible at the resumed fifty-ninth session of the Fifth Committee;

24. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, in which the General Assembly invited the Committee for Programme and Coordination to submit, at its forty-fourth session, recommendations on improving its working methods;

25. *Welcomes* the decision of the Committee for Programme and Coordination to revert to the agenda item entitled "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate", as a matter of priority, at the beginning of its forty-fifth session;

Other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

26. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination regarding the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2003,[13] and its conclusions and recommendations regarding the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development;[14]

27. *Also endorses* the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the report of the Secretary-General on priority-setting;[5]

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[13] E/2004/67.

[14] E/AC.51/2004/6.

Other matters

28. *Invites* the Committee for Programme and Coordination to take appropriate measures to ensure that the discussion sections of the report of the Committee are drafted so as to reflect fully the opinions expressed by delegations.

Annex

Changes to the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2006-2007 reflecting the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session[1] and additional modifications

Programme 1
General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

Overall orientation

In the second sentence of paragraph 1.3, after "the control and limitation of documents," add "in accordance with legislative mandates,".

A. Conference management, New York

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Delete indicator of achievement (b) (ii).

A, B, C and D. Conference management, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi

Subprogramme 2
Planning, development and coordination of conference services

Under *Strategy*, replace the text of paragraphs 1.5 (e), 1.7 (c), 1.10 (e) and 1.13 (c) of sections A, B, C and D, respectively, with the following: "Upgrading, pursuant to the managerial responsibilities of the Secretary-General, the technological capacity in conference services in line with new developments in technology, in accordance with legislative mandates, while keeping the General Assembly aware of new technologies that can be issued in the Organization to achieve timeliness and better quality of services provided".

At the end of expected accomplishment (b), add "where feasible and more cost-effective, without adversely affecting the quality of services provided".

Subprogramme 4
Meetings and publishing services

Under *Strategy*, in paragraphs 1.7 (b), 1.9 (b), 1.12 (b) and 1.15 (b) of sections A, B, C and D, respectively, after "documentation publishing", add "to achieve better quality, and timeliness".

Programme 21
Palestine refugees

Overall orientation

After the first sentence of paragraph 21.2, add the following sentence: "In its resolution 3331 B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, the General Assembly decided that, with effect from 1 January 1975, the expenses relating to the emoluments of international staff in the service of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which would otherwise have been charged to voluntary contributions, should be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate."

Programme 25
Internal oversight

Overall orientation

Replace the text of the first sentence of paragraph 25.1 with the following: "The overall purpose of the programme is to enhance effectiveness in the implementation of all programmes through continually improved internal control mechanisms within the Organization. The mandate for the programme derives from the responsibility of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the United Nations, entrusted to him under Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations."

Amend paragraph 25.3 as follows: "The Office assists Member States and the Organization in protecting its assets, and ensuring the compliance of programme activities with resolutions, regulations, rules and policies, and the more efficient and effective delivery of the Organization's activities; preventing and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, malfeasance or mismanagement; and improving the delivery of the Organization's programmes and activities to enable it to achieve better results by determining all factors affecting the efficient and effective implementation of programmes."

In the second sentence of paragraph 25.4, replace "ensure" with "assist".

Revise the second sentence of paragraph 25.5 as follows: "In addition, the Office assists the Organization in achieving better results by determining the factors affecting the efficient and effective implementation of programmes in accordance with, inter alia, the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992."

Subprogramme 1
Internal audit

Replace the objective of the Organization with the following: "To ensure efficient and effective implementation and management of programmes, activities and operations by programme managers, in accordance with the relevant legislative mandates, regulations and rules."

Revise expected accomplishment (c) as follows: "Improved levels of efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of programmes, and enhanced accountability by programme managers."

Subprogramme 2
Monitoring, evaluation and consulting

Replace the objective of the Organization with the following: "To strengthen programme implementation by monitoring the delivery of the programmes using results-based management methods as well as their outputs and to determine whether they are adequate, timely and in accordance with the mandates, whether they address effectively the objectives of the programmes and whether the resources are used efficiently."

Subprogramme 3
Investigations

Replace the objective of the Organization with the following: "To ensure compliance with regulations and rules of the United Nations and to minimize the occurrence of fraud, violations of regulations and rules of the United Nations, mismanagement, misconduct, waste of resources and abuse of authority."

Amend expected accomplishment (a) as follows: "Better protection of the Organization's assets and resources and greater compliance with the Organization's rules and regulations."